

# AIHC - IRHA - AIHF

THE INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



**AIHC**  
**IRHA**  
**AIHF**

Association Internationale  
d'Histoire des Chemins de fer

International Railway  
History Association

Asociacion Internacional  
de Historia Ferroviaria

## HIGHLIGHTS

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## EDITORIAL

by Fernanda de LIMA LOURENCETTI

**Chief-Editor**

Dear readers, we hope that 2024 ended for everyone as it did for IRHA, with a positive balance!

The 9th Conference, Railways and Environmental Sustainability, was a great success and the number of members increased, which will certainly increase the exchange of knowledge and collaboration between experts and enthusiasts of railway history.

The year of 2025 begins with several prospects: the production of publications, events and an upgrade in the association's means of communication. The main goal is to keep the promotion of the railway history by the work of the Association and all its members.

In this newsletter, as well as some news, events and publications, you will realise how emblematic 2025 is for the history of the railway in the world!

**We hope you enjoy reading this issue!**

And we wish you all a great year!

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Andrea GIUNTINI

President of IRHA

UNIVERSITÀ DI SIENA 1240

BIBLIOTECA DEI TRASPORTI E DELLA MOBILITÀ CESARE POZZO

FONDAZIONE FS ITALIANE

UNIVERSITÀ DI SCIENZE POLITICHE DISPI

IRHA International Railway History Association

9<sup>th</sup> Conference

**8-9-10 NOVEMBER**

WITH THE CONTRIBUTION OF FMPS

**Railways and Environmental Sustainability**  
**A long-term view on a global scale**  
**from the origins of railways to the present**

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8

8:30 a.m. - Welcome and Introduction to the Conference **Andrea Giuntini** (IRHA)  
 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Presentation of papers and discussion - Open to the public

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Presentation of papers and discussion - Open to the public

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10

TRAVEL IN THE NATURE TRAIN, historical steam train,  
 Project « BINARI SENZA TEMPO » by Fondazione FS Italiane

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:  
**Andrea Giuntini** (IRHA President) - Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia,  
**Fernando De Lima** (Università de Evora),  
**Tom Heywood** (University of Aberdeen),  
**Csaba Szendrői Horváth** (Göteborg Institute University),  
**Silvano Maggi** (Università di Siena),  
**Miklós Merges** (CNRS, Paris),  
**Arnaud Pénicaud** (Université Paris-Est Créteil),  
**Ralf Roth** (Göteborgs Universitet, Sweden),  
**Pavel Vozniak** (Göteborgs Universitet, Sweden),  
**Javier Vidal** (Universidad de Alicante).

ORGANIZATION SECRETARIAT:  
**Martina Sambolini** (Università di Siena)  
 martin.sambolini@uniroma1.it

Aula Conferenze - 3 Piano - Via Mattioli, 10 - 53100 Siena

Still in the wake of **the successful Siena conference**, the association recently held **two institutional end-of-year meetings: the Board Meeting and the Assembly**. These meetings served to **monitor the progress** of the association, which we can describe as healthy and dynamic in every respect, **and to plan future commitments, to which all our readers are called upon to contribute**.

**A year of membership assessment and campaigning awaits us**, which we are

intensifying given the good results: **the number of our members is slightly increasing**, which fills us with satisfaction. It is very important both scientifically and economically to spread the association and find new members everywhere.

We are also focusing on our cultural programs: **the Budapest proceedings are expected to come out in 2025** and in the meantime, **we have launched the pathway for the publication of the proceedings of the Siena conference**.

By virtue of the growing relationships with other bodies engaged in the history of railways and mobility that the association is expanding, **we are moving towards close cooperation with like-minded scientific actors** with whom we can work on common ground, starting from shared online lectures and conferences.

Finally, **we don't want to forget to celebrate the 200 years of the first railway line in the world**. In this regard, IRHA is preparing a series of specific initiatives.

**To all our readers I wish a happy 2025!**

# THE INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORY ASSOCIATION 9TH CONFERENCE SIENA (ITALY), 7-10 NOVEMBER 2024

by Andrea GIUNTINI and Stefano MAGGI

**Railways and Environmental Sustainability. A long-term view on a global scale from the origins of railways to the present**



**Photo:**  
Csaba Sándor  
HORVÁTH

Siena is one of the most beautiful cities in Italy. It is located south of Florence in the centre of the country. IRHA decided at the end of 2023 to hold its 9th conference, the first in Italy since the foundation of our association in 2002, from 7 to 10 November.

The conference took place on the first day in the historic Aula Magna of the Rectorate of Siena and the following two days in the Department of Political and International Sciences.



**Photo:** Csaba Sándor HORVÁTH



**Photo:** Csaba Sándor HORVÁTH



**Photo:** Csaba Sándor HORVÁTH

As many as 34 outstanding colleagues from 10 different European and non-European countries and from a variety of scientific disciplines sat at the speakers' table. Each session was followed by a lively discussion with a wide participation of scholars. It is planned to publish the proceedings with a prestigious English publisher, while the proceedings of the previous IRHA conference held in Budapest are forthcoming. The conference demonstrated the vitality of railway history in the world and contributed to the enrichment of its studies. Many young people attended the conference, which confirms how popular the subject is with new generations of scholars.



**Photo:** Csaba Sándor HORVÁTH



The days were made even more interesting by a guided tour of the city, the Cathedral, the Museum of the Duomo Opera and the Museum of the Contrada of Tartuca. On the last day, a good number of conference participants enjoyed the extraordinary beauty of the province of Siena, which they crossed on a steam train - Treno Natura - of the Fondazione Ferrovie dello Stato's Binari senza tempo project.



## GERMAN RAILWAY MUSEUM OF NUREMBERG SIGNS A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE JAPANESE RAILWAY MUSEUM IN SAITAMA

On 12 July the DB Railway Museum in Nuremberg welcomed a number of prominent guests representing the world of culture, tourism, politics, to celebrate the partnership agreement signed between the German Railway Museum and the Railway Museum of Saitama in Japan. Among the guests, let us mention the State Minister for Housing, Construction and Transport of Bavaria Christian Bernreiter, the Consul General of Japan in Munich, Kenichi Bessho, the Mayor for Culture of the City of Nuremberg, Prof. Dr. Julia Lehner, and a delegation representing the Japanese Railway Museum led by Yoshiyuki Oba, Director of the Museum.

In the framework of this agreement, **both museums commit themselves to intensify their international cooperation and promote the further development of both museums thanks to mutual synergies and finally to strengthen friendship between the host cities and host countries of these museums.** In addition this partnership should contribute to strengthening international cooperation between the DB (German Railways) Group

and the Japanese Railway Company JR East which is supporting the Japanese Railway Museum in Saitama.

Actually, both countries Germany and Japan are "Railway nations", nations where the railway occupies an important position and benefits from a high status and recognition in the social, economic and cultural life. Railway Museums Nuremberg and Saitama already established international cooperation links on a number of issues including information exchange, loan of objects to museums for exhibition, organisation of international seminars or conferences,... In the framework of the newly approved partnership, these international activities should be intensified, among them joint projects for exhibitions and more focussed exchange of knowledge.

Source: [Deutsche Bahn Stiftung](#) (translated by Paul Véron)

 DEUTSCHE BAHN  
STIFTUNG

 鉄道博物館  
THE RAILWAY MUSEUM

## MINAS GERAIS' (BRAZIL) FIRST RAILWAY STATION WILL BE BACK IN OPERATION IN FEBRUARY 2025

The municipality of Chiador, in the Zona da Mata region, has one of the greatest imperial riches, **a railway station dating from 1869 and inaugurated by Dom Pedro II.** This postcard of a almost 3,000 inhabitants town **has been under restoration for less than two years and should be finished between January and February 2025.**

“It was in ruins, and Eletrobras took over the restoration of the building” (Maximina Maria Pereira Itaboray, municipal culture coordinator)

Maximina Itaboray explains that the interventions, as well as the investment

**for the works, are the result of a lawsuit between the electricity company and the Minas Gerais Public Prosecutor's Office (MPMG) and the National Historical and Artistic Heritage Institute (Iphan).**

The agreement compensates the construction of an energy-producing dam that was completed 12 years ago on the Paraíba do Sul River. This dam was installed in the neighbouring town of Mar de Espanha during the construction of the state hydroelectric company Furnas Centrais Elétricas S.A., and has a part in the municipality of Chiado.

Source: [Diário do Comércio](#) (translated by Fernanda Lourencetti)

## BRITANNIC EXPLORER - THE FIRST LUXURY SLEEPER TRAIN IN ENGLAND AND WALES

“Paying homage to the Great British tradition of touring, the Britannic Explorer celebrates the art of slow travel, preserving Britain’s pioneering railway history while ushering in a new era of culture and creativity.” (Britannic Explorer. A Belmond Train)

A young Cornish engineer pioneered the first-ever train journey in South Wales in 1804. Currently, the tracks are being explored as a new luxury train bringing back the slow travel.

The experience starts with one of the three different kinds of accommodation, extending it to dining, off-board and self-care.

In a contemporary designed train with an innovative cuisine and wellness, the traveller can choose 6 different journeys:

- Wales;
- The Lake District;
- Cornwall;
- The Lake District and Wales;
- Cornwall and Wales.

Source: [Britannic Explorer. A Belmond Train](#)

# EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

## 8TH INTERNATIONAL EARLY RAILWAYS CONFERENCE

*From Tuesday 23rd September 2025 to Friday 26th September 2025*

For those who do not know, the Early Railways Conference is about early railways organisation and finance, the transfer of technology, and the results of archaeological excavations, with fresh researches presented, discussed and peer-reviewed for publication.

Bookings can be made in [Early Railways Conference website](#) from January 2025.

## COLLOQUE "AU BOUT DU RAIL... LA PLAGE ? L'AVENTURE DES ANTENNES FERROVIAIRES ATLANTIQUES, XIX-XXIÈ SIÈCLES"

From March 29 to April 30, 2024, Rails & histoire and ASLO (Association Sud Loire Océan) co-organised the Synoisium "At the end of the line... the beach? The adventure of the Atlantic railway stations, XIXth-XXIst centuries".



From March 29 to April 30, 2024, Rails & histoire and ASLO (Association Sud Loire Océan) co-organised the Synoisium "At the end of the line... the beach? The adventure of the Atlantic railway stations, XIXth-XXIst centuries".

The forthcoming issue of *La Revue d'histoire des chemins de fer*, number 61, will focus on the proceedings of this symposium.

However, for now you can all take a look in **nine videos available free of charge** on [Railway&Histoire YouTube channel](#), each corresponding to a speech.

Source: [Railway&Histoire](#) (translated by Fernanda Lourencetti)



## THE ANTHOLOGICAL EXHIBITION 'CAMINOS DE HIERRO' BRINGS TOGETHER ALMOST 40 YEARS OF RAILWAY GAZES

September, 2024 - January, 2025



Inaugurated on December 12, 2024, the exhibition brings together the first prizes from the 31 editions held to date of the international photographic competition that has been held since 1986. The last call was on July.

**The exhibition will be open to the public at the Palacio de Fernán Núñez, the Foundation's headquarters, from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 15:00.**

All the winning images, as well as general information about the competition, are available at <https://ffe.es/caminosdehierro/index.asp>.

## CITY, RAIL AND PORT - INTERKNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

September, 2024 - January, 2025

The [City, Railway and Port - InterKnowledge Platform](#) is developing a new cycle of events to be held between September 2024 and January 2025.

The last seminar is a discussion session on the book "La ciudad Futura" written by Justo Serna and Anacleto Pons in 2022.

**City, Rail and Port**  
InterKnowledge

interknowledge.uevora.pt

**Seminários**      **Documentário**      **Clube de Leitura**

Instituições organizadoras:

UNIVERSIDADE DE ÉVORA  
CIDEHUS

UNIVERSIDAD Rey Juan Carlos

UNIVERSIDAD DE VALLADOLID

UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA

## TRANSPORT & MOBILITY HISTORY

*January, 16 and February, 13, 2025*

Booking is now open for all of the remaining seminars in this academic year's Institute of Historical Research Transport & Mobility History series.

### **Railway Studies research retrospective**

Online- via Zoom

#### **Speakers**

Students from the MA Railway Studies Programme (University of York)

#### **Event dates**

16 January 2025, 5:30PM - 7:00PM

### **Building a British Rail in Britain: Advocating For a Nationalised Industry 1960-1990**

Online- via Zoom

#### **Speakers**

Lewis Smith (Brunel University of London)

#### **Event dates**

13 February 2025, 5:30PM - 7:00PM

#### **Contact**

[ihr.events@sas.ac.uk](mailto:ihr.events@sas.ac.uk)

Email only

The seminars are managed by the Institute of Historical Research. Founded in 1921, the IHR is dedicated to training the next generation of historians, and to producing and facilitating ambitious, innovative historical research.

**Source:** [Institute of Historical Research](#)

# RAILWAY READINGS

The *Revue d'histoire des chemins de fer* launched the issue 61, based on the proceedings of the conference 'Au bout du rail... la plage? L'aventure des antennes ferroviaires atlantiques, XIXe-XXIe siècles'. Take a look at its contents!



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### ARTICLES

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p. 30 - 41 • Hervé JOLY. Les antennes ferroviaires atlantiques face à la coordination des transports et aux restrictions de l'Occupation

p. 42 - 47 • Gilles BONTEMPS. La région des Pays de la Loire et l'électrification de Nantes-La Roche-sur-Yon-Les Sables-d'Olonne. Témoignage d'acteur

p. 48 - 69 • Pierre ZEMBRI. Table ronde sur la conception du rôle des politiques

p. 70 - 83 • Pierre-Henri ÉMANGARD. L'ASLO et la ligne Nantes-Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Ne

p. 84 - 97 • Christophe BOUNEAU. La trajectoire saint-simonienne de la ligne Bordeaux-Arcachon depuis le milieu du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle : le désir du rivage toujours renouvelé par le rail

p. 98 - 115 • Jean-Marie BEAUVAIS. Témoignage d'acteur. Conseiller une collectivité locales dans ses négociations avec la SNCF : le cas de l'électrification de Poitiers-La Rochelle

p. 116 - 129 • Roland GEFFROY. Témoignage d'acteur. Trente années de lutte pour la desserte ferroviaire du Trégor (1964-2000)

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p. 142 - 153 • Patrice DURBAIN. Le chemin de fer acteur du tourisme en Médoc.

p. 154 - 163 • Philippe VENTÉJOL. De la gare aux plages. Un demi-siècle de tramways et de voies ferrées secondaires sur les côtes de l'Atlantique

### RUBRIQUES

p. 164 - 197 • Joseph-Jean PÂQUES. « Images du patrimoine ferroviaire ». Genèse des Lignes de Pont-de-Braye à Blois et de Sargé-sur-Braye à Tours à travers les conseils généraux, 1856-1914

p. 198 - 199 • Paul BASTIER. « Brève d'archives ». Un projet pour relier les bords de mer du bassin d'Arcachon à la ligne Bordeaux-La Teste en 1842

p. 200 - 218 • « Bonnes feuilles ». L'enseignement ferroviaire à l'École nationale des ponts et chaussées. Le développement des chemins de fer et des transports urbains en France

p. 220 - 224 • « Du côté du centre de documentation »

On December 11, 2024, the book **‘Manual de Ferrocarriles. El sistema ferroviario español (2ª edición)’**, coordinated by **Alberto García Álvarez**, was launched.

This book **explains the basic aspects of the railway and helps to better understand the sector.** It also describes the current **reality of the Spanish railway system.** This second edition has been thoroughly **revised and updated with data for the year 2024**, the description of the new regulatory counter-reform of 2024 in the United Kingdom has been added, and two extensive new sections have been added relating to suburban and underground services and trams.



In 2023, the online journal [TST - Transportes, Servicios y Telecomunicaciones](#) dedicated the **issue 52** to the theme **“The multiple dimensions of the railway: landscape, territory, industry, re-use”**:

**O território, a paisagem e a modernização ferroviária: os desafios contemporâneos da preservação do Patrimônio Industrial**

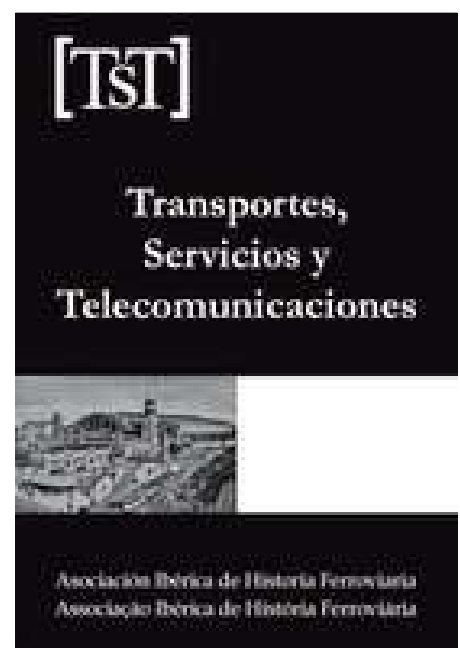
Damián González Pérez

**Vías Verdes de Girona. Nuevos factores para un caso de éxito turístico**

Carles Gorini Santo

**La influencia del ferrocarril al proyectar los primeros almacenes reguladores de aceite del Sindicato Vertical del Olivo**

Sheila Palomares Alarcón



In 2024, the **issue 53** was launched with three interesting articles about the railway world:

**Ferrocarril Meridional Mexicano hacia la Costa central de Oaxaca, México (siglo XIX). Historia de un ferrocarril no construido.**

Damián González Pérez

**La nationalisation précoce et inévitable des chemins de fer italiens et ses effets économiques (1905-1915).**

Michèle Merger

**El ferrocarril Poggibonsi-Colle val d'Elsa: análisis histórico y socioeconómico de una línea secundaria italiana**

Leandro Stacchini

Besides this number, in 2024, TST launched the **issue 54** dedicated to “**El papel del Estado en la explotación ferroviaria: los casos de Italia y España**” (The role of the State in railway operation: the cases of Italy and Spain), where you can find articles and a book review linking railways and political contexts.

Follow the articles published by Journal of Transport History (JTH), throughout 2024:

**Railing through reality: Trains and mobility in Victorian ghost stories**

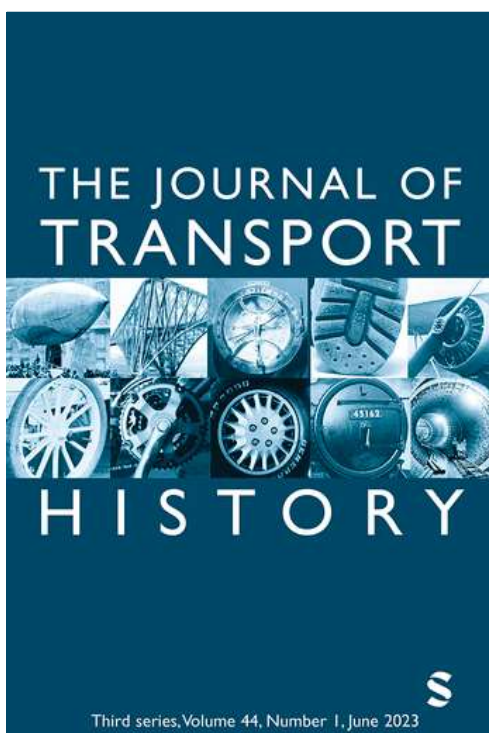
Alicia Barnes

**The centrality of railways in the German concentration camp system: Jewish slave labourers' relocation experiences**

Daan de Leeuw

**Death traffic: The railway witnesses of Operation Reinhard**

Jacob Flaws





Association Internationale  
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International Railway  
History Association

Asociacion Internacional  
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Do not forget to visit  
our website!

[https://aihc-irha-  
aihf.com/](https://aihc-irha-aihf.com/)

NEXT ISSUE  
MAY 2025

**Finding the archival traces of “misery trains”: Early accounts of train transport before the Holocaust**

[Christine Schmidt](#)

**Introduction to Special Issue on Tram Closures Narrated, Experienced and Contested**

[Adam Borch Daan de Leeuw, Jason Finch](#)

**The closure of the Turku Tramway in visual memory**

[Silja Laine](#)

**A nostalgic trip? Klaus Rifbjerg’s “På Sporet af den Tabte Vogn” and the Copenhagen tramway**

[Adam Borch](#)

**Heritage expertise and tram closures in the World Heritage City of Toruń, Poland**

[Iuliia Eremenko](#)

**Tramway closure representations as tools in critical urbanism: London and Glasgow on film, 1953–62**

[Jason Finch](#)

**Book Review: Railways’ Economic Impact on Uttar Pradesh and Colonial North India (1860–1914): The Iron Raj by Ian D. Derbyshire**

[Aparajita Mukhopadhyay](#)

**Book Review: Iran in Motion. Mobility, Space, and the Trans-Iranian Railway by Mikiya Koyagi**

[Sara Zanotta](#)

SEE YOU AROUND:

*“Trains, like time and tide, stop for no one.”*

*Jules Verney*